

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Case No. 2:22-CR-0162-TOR-3

Plaintiff,

vs.

JONAH GREGORY CHAPIN.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING
MEMORANDUM

Defendant.

Plaintiff, United States of America, by and through Vanessa R. Waldref,

United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, and Caitlin

Baunsgard, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of

Washington respectfully submits the following Sentencing Memorandum.

A THE PSIR:

As noted in its Notice of Review, the United States has no objections to the PSIR. *See* ECF. 125.

1 **B. SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION:**

2 Consistent with the Plea Agreement, the 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) factors, as well
3 as the purposes and goals of sentencing, the United States recommends a term of
4 incarceration of 48 months as a sufficient but not greater than necessary sentence
5 for this Defendant.

6 The Defendant is before the court for a serious offense. As outlined in the
7 PSIR, the Defendant, in essence, brokered the distribution of controlled substances
8 to an undercover law enforcement agent. Additionally, when contacted by law
9 enforcement a short time later, he was armed with brass knuckles as well as supply
10 of fentanyl-laced pills. To the Defendant's credit, he was cooperative with law
11 enforcement upon contact and admitted his role in the offense, to include his intent
12 to distribute some of the fentanyl pills he was arrested with to other individuals.

13 While the Defendant is not eligible for safety valve as he possessed a
14 "dangerous weapon", *see* USSG §5C1.2(a)(2) and n. 2, he was not armed with a
15 firearm. While still a "dangerous weapon", it is comparatively less so than a drug
16 dealer who chooses to arm themselves with a firearm. Had the Defendant not been
17 armed, he satisfied all the other criteria for safety valve, and the 2-level reduction
18 under USSG §2D1.1(b)(18) would have brought his advisory guideline range down
19 to 57-71 months.

20 The Defendant is a relatively young man, who while he has a string of
21 arrests, does not have an egregious criminal history. As evident in the PSIR, the
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Defendant's father is also involved in the drug subculture and, in fact, was involved in the instant offense. The Defendant does not appear to have had a stable childhood or early adulthood.

Controlled substances appear to have been involved in, and controlled, a majority of the Defendant's life. He could certainly benefit from the programming and services available to him in the Bureau of Prisons and with U.S. Probation. The choice will be his and his alone on whether to spend his custody time productively, or to idly pass the time and count down the days until he returns to his current lifestyle. Certainly, if he returns to using the 50 fentanyl pills a day he told probation, he life will certainly be cut short.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the United States asks the Court to sentence the Defendant as recommended.

DATED this 10th day of October, 2023.

Vanessa R. Waldref
United States Attorney

s/Caitlin Baunsgard
Caitlin Baunsgard
Assistant United States Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 10, 2023, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System which will send notification of such filing to the following, and/or I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the following non-CM/ECF participant(s):

Amy Rubin

s/Caitlin Baunsgard
Caitlin Baunsgard
Assistant United States Attorney